

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 FREETO 03916 071430Z

46

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /022 W

----- 028035

R 070839Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4420

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 3916

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OREP SL

SUBJ: CODEL TO AAI CONFERENCE: FREETOWN VISIT

1. CODEL DIGGS ARRIVED LUNGI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 2245 DECEMBER 3, WHERE THEY WERE GREETED BY VICE-PRESIDENT S.I. KOROMA, MEMBERS OF THE PROTOCOL DIVISION OF THE MFA, AND AN EXCITED DANCE TROUPE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT'S HOME TOWN OF PORT LOKO. THE NEXT MORNING MEMBERS OF THE CODEL WERE BRIEFED BY AMBASSADOR SAMUELS ON THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DYNAMICS WITHIN SIERRA LEONE AND ON US-SIERRA LEONE BILATERAL RELATIONS. FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING A MAJORITY OF CONGRESSMEN AND SENATOR BIDEN TOURED FOURAH BAY COLLEGE AND ALBERT ACADEMY, PRESIDENT STEVENS' ALMA MATER. THIS TOUR WAS CONDUCTED AT THE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF THE PRESIDENT TO HIGHLIGHT THE LONG HISTORY AND DEEP INVOLVEMENT OF AMERICAN MISSIONARIES AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN SIERRA LEONE. THE ENTIRE DELEGATION THEN MET WITH PRESIDENT STEVENS AT STATE HOUSE FOLLOWING THE TOUR.

2. PRESIDENT STEVENS WARMLY WELCOMED THE DELEGATION TO SIERRA LEONE AND IN HIS OPENING REMARKS EMPHASIZED AMERICA'S SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO SIERRA LEONE IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION, RELIGION AND MEDICINE. HE CITED BOTH SIERRA LEONE'S FIRST PRIME MINISTER, THE LATE SIR MILTON MARGAI AND HIMSELF AS PRODUCTS OF THE ALBERT ACADEMY, A SYMBOL OF THE AMERICAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 FREETO 03916 071430Z

MISSIONARY EFFORT. HE NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A PERIOD OF

STRAINED BILATERAL RELATIONS, WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO "MIS-UNDERSTANDINGS AND MISREPRESENTATIONS." HE WAS HAPPY, HOWEVER, THAT RELATIONS NOW WERE EXCELLENT AND ATTRIBUTED THE IMPROVEMENT LARGELY TO THE EFFORTS OF AMBASSADOR SAMUELS. THE PRESIDENT POINTED OUT THE ADVERSE EFFECTS THAT OIL PRICE INCREASES AND OTHER INFLATIONARY TENDENCIES HAVE HAD ON SIERRA LEONE'S ECONOMY. HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME AMERICAN INVESTMENT AND WOULD CONTINUE AN OPEN DOOR POLICY IN TRADE.

3. THE PRESIDENT TOLD THE DELEGATION THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, COUPLED WITH AMERICA'S POSITION OF WORLD LEADERSHIP, WOULD CAUSE THE US TO TRANSCEND ITS POLICY OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. HE CALLED ON THE UNITED STATES "TO DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TOWARDS THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE WORLD AND IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IN PARTICULAR." HE SAID THAT A DROWNING MAN HAS A NATURAL INSTINCT TO GRAB AT ANYTHING WITHIN HIS REACH AND THAT A DROWNING COUNTRY HAS THE SAME TENDENCY TO GRAB AT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES TO SAVE ITSELF. HE SAID THAT ANYONE TRYING TO HELP SHOULD TRY TO ELIMINATE THE BASIC CAUSES OF THE DIFFICULTY RATHER THAN BLAMING THE DROWNING MAN FOR HIS METHODS OR EFFORTS TO SAVE HIMSELF.

4. CHAIRMAN DIGGS, IN REPLYING TO THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS, EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT VISITING SIERRA LEONE AND APPRECIATION FOR THE WARM WELCOME THE DELEGATION RECEIVED. HE NOTED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO VISIT SIERRA LEONE IN TEN YEARS AND THAT HE HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THAT EARLIER DELEGATION. THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IN MAY HAD MADE A TREMENDOUS IMPACT IN GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS OTHER QUARTERS IN AMERICA. HE BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE PURPOSE OF THE AAI CONFERENCE IN MASERU AND SAID THAT POLICY UNDER THE FORTHCOMING ADMINISTRATION WOULD SEEK TO REMOVE THE CRITICISMS OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY EXPRESSED AT THE MASERU CONFERENCE. THE CHAIRMAN INTRODUCED THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION, WHO REITERATED THEIR PLEASURE AT SIERRA LEONE'S HOSPITALITY. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM SENATOR BIDEN, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT AFRICAN NATIONS WERE DISAPPOINTED IN ARAB AID OFFERS AND THAT THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT UNESCO MEETING IN NAIROBI WERE ONLY THE FIRST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 FREETO 03916 071430Z

INDICATIONS OF WHAT HE FELT WOULD BE A MORE BALANCED APPROACH TO MIDDLE EAST ISSUES BY BLACK AFRICAN STATES. THE PRESIDENT CONCLUDED THE AUDIENCE BY DISTRIBUTING BOOKLETS TO THE DELEGATION OUTLINING THE HISTORY AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF AMERICAN-SIERRA LEONE RELATIONS.

4. FOLLOWING THE MEETING THE ENTIRE DELEGATION WENT TO THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOR LUNCH AND TO INSPECT AND PURCHASE

THE BEST OF SIERRA LEONEAN HANDICRAFTS. MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION THEN WENT ON SHOPPING, SIGHTSEEING TOURS OR JUST RELAXED ON THE BEACH. CONGRESSMAN YOUNG EARLIER HAD AGREED TO ADDRESS THE STUDENTS AND COMBINED FACULTIES OF FOURAH BAY COLLEGE ON: "THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECENT NATIONAL ELECTIONS FOR AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY." HE DELIVERED A HUMOROUS, WELL-RECEIVED SPEECH TO SOME 300 STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS, WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY A QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD. MORE DETAILS ON CONGRESSMAN YOUNG'S SPEECH WILL BE PROVIDED BY SEPARATE TELEGRAM TO DEPARTMENT AND USIA ONLY.

5. PRESIDENT STEVENS HOSTED A RECEPTION AT 1800 HOURS ON THE LAWNS OF STATE HOUSE FOR THE DELEGATION TO WHICH THE NOTABLES AND DIGNITARIES OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS WERE INVITED. ENTERTAINMENT WAS PROVIDED BY THE ARMY BAND AND THE NATIONAL DANCE TROUPE. UNFORTUNATELY, PERHAPS OWING TO "END-OF-JOURNEY" FATIGUE FELT BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION AND A 0430 "WAKE-UP" THE FOLLOWING MORNING, ONLY CONGRESSMAN DIGGS, SENATOR BIDEN AND CONGRESSWOMAN COLLINS, AS WELL AS SEVERAL STAFF MEMBERS, APPEARED AT THE RECEPTION.

6. THE DELEGATION DEPARTED LUNGI AIRPORT AT 0840 DECEMBER 5.
NORTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976FREETO03916
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760451-1149
From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761267/aaaacfs.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL TO AAI CONFERENCE: FREETOWN VISIT
TAGS: OREP, SL, (DIGGS, CHARLES C JR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006